

# **NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Block Island School**

**January 16, 2007**

**7:00 P.M.**

**The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Tuesday, January 16, 2007, in the media center of the Block Island School. Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. The following members were present: Annie Hall, Sean McGarry, William Padien, Richard Tretheway, and Shea Butcher. Leslie Ryan was also present.**

## **Approval of Minutes**

**A motion (Hall, Padien) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on December 19, 2006, as presented carried with a vote of 4-0 with Shea Butcher not in attendance.**

**A motion (Hall, Padien) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 3, 2007, as presented carried with a vote of 4-0 with Shea Butcher not in attendance.**

**A motion (Hall, Padien) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 8, 2007, as presented carried with a vote of 4-0 with Shea Butcher not in attendance.**

**A motion (Padien, Tretheway) to approve the executive session minutes of the meetings held on December 19, 2006, and January 3, 2007, carried with a vote of 4-0 with Shea Butcher not in attendance.**

## **Reports**

**Nancy Cole presented the fiscal report as of December 31, 2007, stating that the appropriate reports were successfully filed by ADP and we should be receiving a refund from the state shortly. She also expects ADP to reimburse us for the interest and penalties charged to us by the state for ADP's error. Mrs. Cole feels we are on target for being halfway through the fiscal year. A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the December 31, 2006, fiscal report as presented carried with a vote of 4-0, with Shea Butcher not in attendance.**

**Annie Hall reported that four applications have been received for the principal position. She stated that the search committee itself had concerns about the even number of members. A discussion was held as to whether the make-up of the committee should be three or five and if another School Committee or community member should be included. Audience members felt that the principal is the most important position in the school and the search committee should have more members not fewer. A motion was made by Sean McGarry to lower the search committee from four members to three members, but was not seconded. Gloria Redlich, a reporter from the Block Island Times, volunteered to join the committee. A motion (Padien, Hall) to add Gloria Redlich to the principal search committee carried**

**with a vote of 4-0 with Shea Butcher not in attendance.**

**Sean McGarry reported that the Superintendent Search Committee held its first meeting and drafted an advertisement that will be placed in the Providence Journal, Education Week, and the Block Island Times. The superintendents' association will also be notified. A motion (Padien, Hall) to place the advertisement for the superintendent position as presented in the Providence Journal, Education Week, and the Block Island Times beginning Sunday, January 21, 2007, carried with a vote of 4-0 with Shea Butcher not in attendance. The search committee will also be meeting to develop a superintendent job description that includes our educational philosophy and Rhode Island State law. The timeline developed for the search includes the application deadline of February 26, reviewing applications by March 2, interviewing candidates from March 27-April 12, recommending several applicants to the School Committee for interviews, and appointing a candidate at the May 21 School Committee meeting. The superintendent would begin on July 1.**

**William Padien reported that Howell Conant has a key to the building and is planning to have the dust collector wired as soon as possible, doing most of the work in the evening unless he makes other arrangements with John Warfel. He will also order all the OSHA required items for the automatic shut-offs for the machines in the shop. Shea Butcher has agreed to help him whenever possible. Mr.**

**Padien continues to leave messages for Joe Sprague about finishing the ramp to the parking lot and installing the basketball stanchions. Mike Shea is to install signs designating the handicapped parking spaces, including one in the driveway near the front door. The fence has been erected around the generator and looks good. It now needs a master lock with several keys. Mr. Butcher has donated more insulation for the attic and Mr. Padien will make sure it is in the right places. The ceramic studio was mistakenly not included in the original plan to switch to energy efficient lighting, but will be taken care of as soon as possible.**

**Mrs. Ryan reported that she had spoken with the superintendent in Narragansett about their security system and was told it is not state of the art. Westerly and Jamestown were suggested as being in better positions to showcase their systems. School Committee members would like to visit the schools sooner rather than later, but Chief Carlone is available to visit the mainland on Fridays. It was suggested that it would be nice to include the chief, but it is not necessary to have him along for the visit to other schools.**

**Victoria Carson reported that the government, through Wellness Committees/Policies, would ultimately like to see 225 minutes per week of physical activity for students, not including recess. Currently 100 minutes per week, including health, is required and the Block Island School exceeds that requirement. Mrs. Carson stated that the government is now strongly recommending 150 minutes per week**

**without health classes.**

**Marlee Lacoste reported on the following:**

- An excellent holiday performance was held in the gym on Wednesday, December 20 and was well attended.**
- The police department has reported that the gym doors have been unlocked at night. All coaches and custodians have been informed about this problem. Everett Littlefield will number all the doors so we can be aware of exactly which doors are left unlocked.**
- The National Honor Society will induct new members in early February.**
- Vicky Carson held a First Aid recertification class last week to help more people become certified as coaches.**
- Mid-term exams are scheduled for January 23-26. Students in grades 8-12 will have open campus those four days.**
- The senior class is sponsoring a breakfast on Sunday, January 21 to raise money for its Close-Up trip to Washington, DC.**

**Mrs. Ryan stated that Dr. Seitsinger, Director of Middle and High School Reform, and other representatives from RIDE will work with our secondary teachers on February 2 to address our proficiency based graduation requirements (PBGR). Joanne Warfel is developing a list of concerns RIDE can address while here.**

**Mrs. Ryan reported that the school is the recipient of a Rhode Island Foundation grant for the Green Eggs and Hamlet play scheduled for**

**this spring.**

**Mrs. Ryan has instituted a Student of the Week, which should be a morale booster for the students and teachers. The student's picture and a small bio will be placed on the bulletin board outside the school office.**

**Mrs. Ryan reported that there have been concerns about sexual harassment on some students. She suggested that the dress codes be tightened up and the sexual harassment policy be reviewed.**

### **New Business**

**It was suggested at a previous meeting that one way to increase revenue for next fiscal year is to increase facility use fees. Policy DEA: Application for Use of School Facility and Conditions Controlling the Use of School Facilities, which includes rules for the use of the building, states that the fee schedule may change at any time. The cost to use the school is \$5 per hour and has not changed in almost 20 years. Committee members felt a jump from \$5 to \$50 would be too much and agreed on \$25 per hour, stating that the fee could be waived for the kids' recreation programs, but the adults could shoulder some of the burden as a user's fee. A motion (Tretheway, McGarry) to change the facility use fee from \$5 to \$25 per hour carried with a vote of 4-0 with Shea Butcher not in attendance.**

**Bids were received for propane gas, school bus transportation, and**

**lawn maintenance (one bid each). A motion (Padien, Hall) to award the propane gas bid to Littlefield & Sons as presented was withdrawn and tabled until the next meeting. Mrs. Cole will research the amount of propane used within the last year and present that information prior to the committee awarding a bid.**

**A three-year bid for school bus transportation was received from Rice Construction Company, Inc. at a yearly cost of \$70,000 for two buses. Howie Rice stated that a calculation error had been made and lowered the bid to \$61,000. He explained the reasons for the increase included having a back-up bus as requested by the School Committee, insurance for three buses, having to take the buses off-island for inspection, and rental of garage space. It was suggested that two buses are not needed during the winter months when fewer students are riding the bus because of after school recreation activities for the younger students and basketball practice for the older students. Mr. Rice stated that on an average day they could expect 47-80 students on the bus, but they have no way of gauging which days the ridership would be higher. Mr. Padien stated that with the 5.5 percent cap the district can't afford two buses. Several alternatives were to impose a one or two-mile radius where students living within that distance would not ride the bus, have staggered start times for the elementary and high school, and not require a back-up bus. Richard Tretheway suggested that Mr. Rice meet with Mrs. Ryan and a member of the School Committee to see where we can crunch numbers and negotiate a lower price. Mr.**

**Padien said he would be willing to meet with them within the next couple of days.**

**The only bid received for mowing services was from Greenscape Mowing Services at the same price as last year (\$230 per cut). A motion (Padien, Tretheway) to award the 2007-08 mowing bid to Greenscape Mowing Services at \$230 per cut carried with a vote of 4-1 with Sean McGarry voting in the negative.**

### **Old Business**

**The School Committee reviewed the goals and objectives that were approved last year and made several changes. Mrs. Ryan will make the requested changes and submit the goals and objectives to the committee for final review and approval at the regular meeting in February. It was suggested that the goals and objectives be reviewed at the committee's December meeting so funding can be included in the budget if necessary.**

**The School Committee reviewed an updated budget for 2007-2008 that included an outline of all changes made since the first draft was submitted. Mrs. Cole stated that the first draft was approximately \$110,000 over budget, but with various cuts the current draft is now \$5412 over budget. A new copier and an increase of 1/5 for guidance and 3/5 in physical education were eliminated. The supplies line item was cut by \$3600 and \$2000 was cut for the principal's advisory team.**

**The School Committee cut the building and maintenance equipment**



from \$2500 to \$1000 for the purchase of a snow blower, decided to level-fund Close-Up, and cut field trips by 20 percent. The senior dinner and beginning of school staff breakfast were included, but the School Committee decided not to pay for the dinners of any adults attending the senior dinner and the staff breakfast can be held in the cafeteria instead of the 1661 Inn. It was stated that if savings were realized from other places, such as negotiations, the committee could add some of the cuts back in. The next budget work session is scheduled for Monday, January 22.

### **Calendar of Events**

A calendar of events for the months of January and February 2007 were included for School Committee information. A negotiation session is scheduled for 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, January 28. The next School Committee budget work sessions were scheduled for Monday, January 22 and, if necessary, Wednesday, January 24. A meeting to adopt the budget has been scheduled for Monday, January 29.

### **Correspondence**

Various pieces of correspondence were submitted for School Committee information.

### **Executive Session**

A motion (Padien, Hall) at 10:25 P.M. to go into executive session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-4, 5(a)(2) for contract negotiations carried with a vote of 5-0.

## **Open Session**

**A motion (Padien, Tretheway) to at 10:40 P.M. to return to open session carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**A motion (Padien, Tretheway) to seal the minutes of the executive session carried with a vote of 5-0.**

## **Adjournment**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) at 10:41 P.M. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk**

**Date approved: 2/12/2007**